

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Michael Mangold  
Serial No. :  
Filed : herewith  
Title : SKI BINDING OR SNOWBOARD BINDING  
Group Art Unit. : Examiner :  
Attorney Docket : MA0364US (#90081)

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 9, after the last paragraph on the page, insert the following paragraph:

The invention has been described with particular emphasis on the preferred embodiments, but variations and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention may occur to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

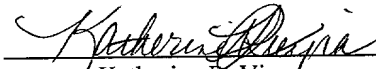
1. (Amended) A ski binding or a snowboard binding having boot holder components on the front or

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Date: October 18, 2001

  
Katherine R. Vieyra

toe end and on the rear or heel end for securing a boot on a ski or a snowboard, the ski or snowboard having a guide apparatus extending in the longitudinal direction of the ski, comprising:

said boot holder components form-fittingly connected, detachably in the vertical direction in a fixed manner, to the guide apparatus,

a holding device arranged between the boot holder components and secured on the ski or snowboard, and

connection elements connecting the guide apparatus to the holding device.

2. (Amended) A binding according to claim 1, wherein the guide apparatus secures the holding device.

3. (Amended) A binding according to claim 1, wherein the holding device is at least partially integrated into the ski or snowboard.

4. (Amended) A binding according to claim 1, wherein the guide apparatus has segmented rails.

5. (Amended) A ski binding or snowboard binding having boot holder components on the front or toe end and on the rear or heel end for securing a boot on a ski or a snowboard, the ski or snowboard having a guide apparatus extending in the longitudinal direction of the ski, comprising:

said boot holder components form-fittingly connected, detachably in the vertical direction in a fixed manner, to the guide apparatus,

a holding device arranged between the boot holder components and secured on the ski or snowboard, and

said boot holder components coupled in the longitudinal direction of the guide apparatus to said holding device, and

connection elements which can be adjusted against a self-locking effect connecting the guide apparatus to the holding device.

6. (Amended) A binding according to claim 5, wherein the connection elements are part of a threaded spindle.
7. (Amended) A binding according to claim 6, wherein the threaded spindle is mounted axially on the holding device and is screwed into parts having an internal screw thread with threaded sections having opposing threads, said parts being arranged in an axially fixed manner in the boot holding components.
8. (Amended) A binding according to claim 5, wherein the boot holder components or the connection elements have an adjusting device which has an adjusting input operated by a motor-driven tool such as an electric screwdriver.
9. (New) A binding according to claim 1, wherein the boot holder components or the connection elements have an adjusting device which has an adjusting input operated by a motor-driven tool such as an electric screwdriver.
10. (New) A binding according to claim 1, wherein the rail guide secures the holding device on a central section of the rail guide.

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**REMARKS**

This preliminary amendment is to enhance clarity and conformance with U.S. patent practice, but otherwise is an accurate translation of the specification from which foreign priority is claimed. The claims are amended, including deleting the reference numbers, to place them in conformance with U.S. patent practice and to delete multiple-dependencies, thus reducing the government filing fee. These amendments necessitated the addition of new claims. A marked up version of the original claims as filed is attached. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, prosecution on the merits hereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 18, 2001

  
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DPH/KRV  
Attached: Marked Up Claims

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**ATTACHMENT TO AMENDMENT**

MARKED UP CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES RELATIVE TO THE ORIGINAL VERSION

1. (Amended) A ski binding or a snowboard binding having boot holder components [(3, 15; 4, 16)] on the front [end] or [the] toe end and on the rear [end] or [the] heel end[, serving to secure] for securing a boot on [the] a ski or a snowboard [(1)], the ski or snowboard having a guide apparatus extending in the longitudinal direction of the ski, comprising:

said boot holder components [being held] form-fittingly connected, [displaceably] detachably in the vertical direction in a fixed manner, [on the ski holds with a form-fitting connection] to [a rail] the guide apparatus [(2) which is integrated into the ski (1) or the snowboard and extends in the longitudinal direction of the ski and is or can be],

a holding device arranged between the boot holder components and secured on the ski or snowboard, and

connection elements [connected on the ski or the snowboard in the longitudinal direction of the rail guide (2) by means of connection elements (7', 7"),] connecting the [rail] guide apparatus to [a] the holding device [(5) which is or can be secured on the ski or snowboard and is arranged between the boot holder components].

2. (Amended) A binding according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the guide apparatus

secures the holding device [(5)] can be secured on the rail guide (2), in particular on a central section of the rail guide].

3. (Amended) A binding according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the holding device [(5)] is at least partially integrated into the ski [(1)] or snowboard.

4. (Amended) A binding according to [one of] claim[s] 1, [through 3, characterized in that] wherein the [rail] guide apparatus has segmented rails [(2)].

5. (Amended) A ski binding or snowboard binding having boot holder components [(3, 15; 4, 16)] on the front [end] or [the] toe end and [also] on the rear [end] or [the] heel end[, serving to secure] for securing a boot on [the] a ski [(1)] or a snowboard, the ski or snowboard having a guide apparatus extending in the longitudinal direction of the ski, comprising:

said boot holder components [being secured] form-fittingly connected, [displaceably] detachably in the vertical direction in a fixed manner, [on the ski with a form-fitting connection] to [a rail] the guide [(2)] apparatus [on the ski or on the snowboard, extending in the longitudinal direction of the ski],

a holding device arranged between the boot holder components and secured on the ski or snowboard, and

[they can be or are] said boot holder components coupled in the longitudinal direction of the [rail] guide [(2)] apparatus to [a] said holding device, and [(5)] which is or can be secured on the ski or snowboard and is arranged between the boot holder components (3, 15; 4, 16) by means of]

connection elements [(7', 7'')] which can be adjusted against a self-locking effect[, in particular according to one of claims 1 through 4] connecting the guide apparatus to the holding device.

6. (Amended) A binding according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the connection

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elements are part of a threaded spindle [(7)].

7. (Amended) A binding according to claim 6, [characterized in that] wherein the threaded spindle [(7)] is mounted axially [in] on the [housing (5)] holding device and is screwed into parts [or nuts (9)] having an internal screw thread with threaded sections [(7', 7'')] having opposing threads, said [nuts] parts being arranged in an axially fixed manner in the boot holding components [or on the base plate parts (3, 4)].

8. (Amended) A binding according to claim 5, [one of claims 1 through 7, characterized in that] wherein the boot holder components [(3, 15; 4, 16)] or the connection elements [(7', 7'')] have an adjusting device [(7 through 13)] which has an adjusting input [(12, 13) which can be] operated by [means of] a motor-driven tool such as an electric screwdriver.